

# **RESUME OF MORE THAN A DECADE OF LABORS**

In Behalf of the Blind and Deaf of  
the Indian Territory, Dating  
From June, 1897, to  
July 30, 1907.

BY

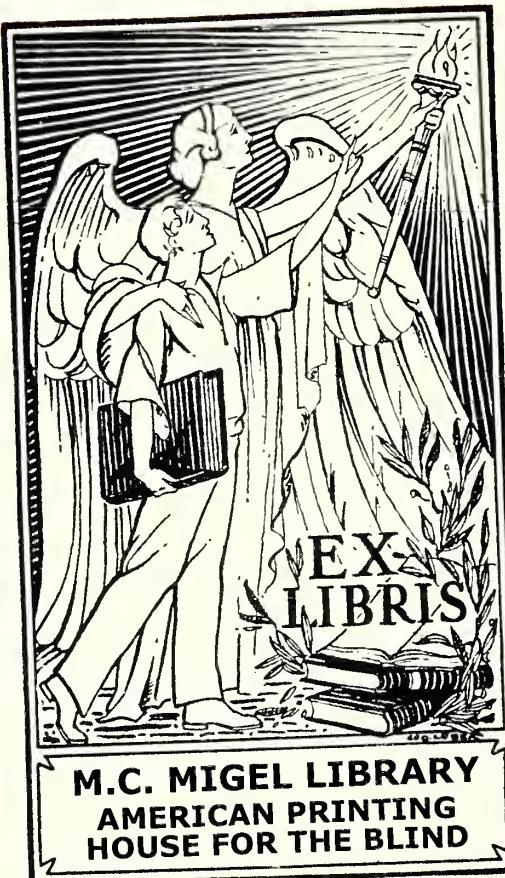
**MRS. LURA A. LOWREY,**  
Founder and Principal, and

**MR. WM. LOWREY,**  
Assistant Business Manager

OF THE

**INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF**  
**FORT GIBSON, IND. TER.**

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# RESUME OF MORE THAN A DECADE OF LABORS

IN BEHALF OF THE

## BLIND AND DEAF

OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY, DATING FROM  
JUNE, 1897, TO JULY 30, 1907.

— BY —

MRS. LURA A. LOWREY, *Founder and Principal,*  
AND

MR. WM. LOWREY, *Assistant Business Manager,*

— OF THE —

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF

FORT GIBSON, INDIAN TERRITORY

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ENDORSED BY

Hon. J. D. Benedict, Superintendent of Schools for the Indian Territory.

Rev. T. F. Brewer, President of Spaulding Institute, Muskogee, I. T.

Rev. J. S. Murrow, President of Murrow Orphan's Home, Atoka, I. T.

And other leading educators and officials of the Indian Territory.

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## LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

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To Whom it may concern:—

This letter will be presented by Miss Lura Rowland, a lady who has taught in the Arkansas School for the Blind and who has had considerable experience in this work. She visits the Indian Territory in an effort to promote the education of the blind there. Miss Rowland is a most estimable lady and I bespeak for her the consideration of those with whom she may come in contact in this most laudable effort of hers.

Very Truly, etc.,

DANL. W. JONES,  
Governor of the State of Arkansas.

July 21, 1897.

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Tahlequah, Ind. Ter., Sept. 1, 1897

To Whom it may concern:—

This will introduce to you Miss Rowland, a lady from the State of Arkansas, who has come to me highly recommended, by the Governor of that State, and others, as being one who has had considerable experience in teaching the blind in the State Institution.

She comes here in the interests of that class of people and appeals to those charitably inclined, to give her such assistance and information as will be of benefit to her in the establishment of an institution for the blind at some convenient place in the Indian Territory.

I take pleasure in recommending her to your consideration, and hope that you will render her such assistance as you can conveniently.

Yours very truly,

S. H. MAYES,  
Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation.

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Little Rock, Arkansas, June 7, 1898.

To Whom it may concern:—

This is to certify that Miss Lura A. Rowland is a graduate of this institution of learning. As a student, she won the

honors of her class together with the love and esteem of the faculty and pupils. After her graduation she was employed as a teacher in the school, where she taught with marked success for four years. Having had in contemplation for some time the founding of a school for the blind in the Indian Territory, she now began the much anticipated work. She has devoted one year of untiring labor to this undertaking which has resulted in demonstrating to the people of the Territory the need of such an institution and a manifestation on their part of a readiness to assist in the founding and support of the same.

Miss Rowland needs no endorsement from any one where her work is known,—it speaks her worth. But to those who may not know her and the excellence of her work, we desire to add to the above facts the high estimation in which we hold Miss Rowland as a lady, a scholar, and a teacher. From a long and intimate acquaintance we have discovered in her character the happy combination of individuality, competency, will power and Christian consistency, embellished by a lady-like modesty that adds charm and potency to all. We commend Miss Rowland and her laudable undertaking to the favorable consideration of every one who has a heart and hand to offer towards aiding a most estimable lady and a most worthy cause.

Respectfully,  
O. C. GRAY, Superintendent.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

RANSOM GULLEY, President.  
SAM H. DAVIDSON, Vice-President,  
THOS. H. MATTHEWS,  
GEO. M. HEARD,  
J. J. THOMAS,  
J. W. MEEKS.

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 4, 1900.

Miss Lura A. Rowland,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Miss Rowland,

I have just received your letter urging National assistance for the Inter-National School for the blind at Ft. Gibson, and I assure you of my hearty sympathy in this matter. I have introduced a bill, calling for an appropriation of \$10,-

000.00 for this laudable purpose, but the same measure was defeated by the committee in the last Congress, and I fear it will meet the same fate in this Congress. I enclose you list of committeemen, with whom you may correspond if you desire.

Very truly yours,  
JOHN S. LITTLE.

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 15, 1900

Mrs. L. A. Rowland,  
Ft. Gibson, I. T.  
Madam:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th instant in reference to an appropriation for your school. I beg to say that Congressman Little has asked for an appropriation of \$5,000 this year, the clause to be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill. His request has been granted and there is no doubt that when the bill is reported the appropriation will be contained therein. What action Congress will take I am unable to say, but I know Mr. Little will do all in his power to secure its passage and I will be glad to co-operate with him. With great respect, I am

Very truly yours,  
J. S. SHERMAN.

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 19, 1900

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory.

Dear Miss Rowland:

I am in receipt of your two letters, dated, respectively, January 1st and January 15th, 1900, and have this day addressed a communication to Honorable John S. Little, Congressman from Arkansas, transmitting your letters to him, in words as follows:

I herewith enclose two letters from Miss Lura A. Rowland, Principal for the Indian School for the blind, Ft. Gibson, Ind. Ter., dated, respectively January 1st, and January 15, 1900. I desire to commend most heartily this institution to your careful consideration, and to request that you prepare a bill for the appropriation of not less than \$15,000 for this school. I know Miss Rowland personally. She herself is blind, and was educated at the Arkansas school for the blind,

at Little Rock, Arkansas, and is most worthy of every possible confidence and aid that can be bestowed upon her. She is energetic and efficient in her work, and so commands the respect of the Cherokee people as that they have made some provision for the support of their people attending her school. I will be glad to give you any further information or assistance in this matter.

I will see Judge Little in a few days, and speak with him personally about the matter, and will do what I can to secure aid for you.

Respectfully,  
A. S. McKENNON.

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Washington, D. C., January 19, 1900.

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Principal, International School for the Blind,  
Fort Gibson, Indian Territory.

Madam:

The Department is in receipt of your communication of the 15th instant, in which you give the history of the International School for the blind, at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, and request the aid of the Department to secure the passage of a bill before Congress appropriating money for the support of said institution.

You are informed that your communication has this day been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for his consideration, report and recommendation.

Respectfully,  
THOS. RYAN.  
Acting Secretary.

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 15, 1900

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Ft. Gibson, I. T.

Dear Madam:—

I have your letter of January 11th, and assure you will gladly do all I can to assist your institution. I will bring your letter to the attention of the committee when it meets. Mr. Powell of Wagoner, and others have spoken very highly of your school.

Very truly,  
CHAS. CURTIS.

Washington, D. C., January 30, 1900.

Miss Lura Rowland,

Principal, International College for the Blind,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Miss Rowland:—

Your letter of the 15th instant is received. I will take pleasure in assisting your friends in securing an appropriation for the support of your school. I understand that an appropriation of \$10,000 for that purpose has been inserted in the regular Indian appropriation bill. I hope it may be retained in the bill and become a law.

I am very truly,  
W. M. SPRINGER.

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Washington, D. C., Feb. 12, 1900

Lura A. Rowland,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

Dear Madam:—

I have your letter of February 8, and am sorry to inform you that the item was stricken from the Indian Appropriation Bill on the point of order. I assure you I will gladly do all I can to assist your institution.

Very truly,  
CHAS. CURTIS.

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Washington, D. C., Feb. 26, 1900

Miss Lura Rowland,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Miss Rowland:—

Your letter of the 25th inst. received, in reply will say that there is a special bill pending before the committee on Indian Affairs, introduced by myself, appropriating \$10,000 for the school for the blind in the Indian Territory at Ft. Gibson.

The same provision was put on the appropriation bill, but was defeated in the house. I hope you may be able now to understand the situation.

Very truly yours,  
JOHN S. LITTLE.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9, 1901

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Miss Rowland:—

Your letter again referring to the appropriation sought for your school has been received. And I will kindly say to you, that I don't think there is any probability of securing the appropriation. The expenses in the Territory are so great, that Congress seems determined to make no appropriations for the schools in that country.

Very truly yours,  
JOHN S. LITTLE.

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 8, 1901

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Ft. Gibson, I. T.

Dear Madam:—

Answering your letter of Jan. 5th, I assure you when the bill mentioned by you comes up it will give me pleasure to assist in securing its passage.

I will speak to Judge Little in regard to it.

Very truly,  
CHAS. CURTIS.

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Washington, Jan. 26, 1901

Miss Lura A. Rowland,  
Principal, I. S. B.,  
Fort Gibson, I. T.

Madam:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th instant asking for the aid of this office in your earnest efforts to obtain some assistance from Congress for the support of your school in the way of an appropriation.

In reply you are advised that this Office would be willing to assist you in any reasonable way in securing an adequate appropriation for your school, provided the same was placed under the direction of the Department with reference to general management. At any time that I may be of assistance if you will inform me I will do all that reasonably can be done.

Very respectfully,  
A. C. TONNER,  
Acting Commissioner.

Washington, D. C., February 28, 1902.

Miss Lura A. Rowland,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Miss Rowland:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant again urging relief for the school for the blind at Ft. Gibson.

In reply I will say that at the present time there seems to be no favorable outlook for the relief of this most worthy enterprise. If the opportunity should offer during this session of Congress I should be glad to do what I can to make provision for the care and education of the blind of the Territory, I am,

Very sincerely yours,  
JOHN S. LITTLE.

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Washington, D. C., Feb. 3, 1902

Miss Lura A. Rowland,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

Dear Madam:—

Answering your letter of Jan. 30th, I wrote you last year that I would gladly do all I could to assist your institution, I will join Mr. Little and do everything I can to assist you.

Very truly,  
CHAS. CURTIS.

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Washington, D. C., January 7, 1904

Mrs. Lura A. Lowrey,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

Dear Madam:—

I have your letter of recent date and note what you say in regard to your school. I assure you it will give me pleasure to do what I can to assist you.

Very truly,  
CHAS. CURTIS.

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Washington, D. C., January 15, 1904

Mrs. Lura A. Lowrey,

Ft. Gibson, I. T.

My Dear Madam:—

Your letter of recent date appealing for help for the Blind and Deaf School under your charge has been received. I am in hearty sympathy with you and shall be glad to render

any assistance that I may in the matter, but as I am no longer a member of the committee on Indian Affairs, I would suggest that you endeavor to interest the members of the committee in the matter. With much respect, I am

Very truly yours,  
JOHN S. LITTLE.

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*To the Friends and Patrons of the International School for  
the Blind and Deaf, and to the Public in General:*

We respectfully submit the brief, but comprehensive outline herein contained, of the work which we have done in behalf of the Blind and the Deaf of the Indian Territory covering a period of a little more than ten years, beginning in the month of June, 1897, and ending July 30, 1907.

We deeply regret the fact that we have not been able to give the public each year, or at least every two years, a printed report, giving, in detail, an account in full of all of the receipts, expenditures, and general proceedings of the institution as is usually done by institutions of this character. But we have been financially unable to pay for such frequent publications and even now, the amount of means available for this purpose will not permit of our giving more than a mere outline of our work during the whole ten years, together with such other matter, historical sketch of the school, letters of introduction, endorsement, encouragement, etc., as we deem is necessary in order that the public may have a clear understanding of the conditions from the beginning, down to the present time.

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#### REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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To whom it may concern:

The International School for the blind located at Ft. Gibson, I. T., is strictly an educational institution for the blind, whites and Indians of the whole Indian Territory. This institution is supported only by contributions from those who are able and willing to assist in the education of the blind enabling them to become self supporting and in many instances helpful to others.

This institution is the result of the labors of Miss Lura

A. Rowland, who is a graduate of the school for the blind at Little Rock, Arkansas, and who deserves great credit for the untiring energy put forth in raising funds and so economically and judiciously applying the same for the purpose for which it was contributed.

About two years ago Miss Rowland began to ascertain the needs of an institution of this kind in the Territory, and finding there was a sufficient number of blind persons of school age to justify the undertaking, began to solicit donations and succeeded in raising sufficient funds to open the school.

Through the kindness of the officials of the Cherokee Nation the house known as the Barracks building in the Fort at Fort Gibson, I. T., was procured and after such repairs and preparations of the building as was necessary, which was made at considerable expense, the school was opened Jan. 3, 1898, with ten pupils, school term ended June 30, same year. The next term opened Oct. 5th, and terminated Dec. 21st. During that term there were sixteen pupils in regular attendance, the third term began Feb. 1st, 1899, and closed March 17, 1899, for want of funds to support the school. During this term there were only six pupils in attendance for want of funds to defray the expenses of the school. During the time Miss Rowland has been engaged in this enterprise, she has not been paid anything for her services. Neither has any officer or teacher of the school as they have given their whole time gratuitously to the cause, and every dollar has been spent for food, or absolute necessities for the school. We have the matter before Congress in the form of a bill in the hands of friends of the school for an appropriation for the maintenance of the same, and hope and expect in the near future to get sufficient funds to build up and perpetuate the school.

Now we ask a liberal donation to keep the school going and if all will help a little the burden will be light until the much needed help can be procured from the government. This is a matter that we all should feel equally interested in and take the matter home to ourselves, being blessed with sight, we should cheerfully give towards the support of a school where those of our fellow creatures who are deprived of the blessing of eye sight may be taught to be self-helpful at least, and in many instances useful and self supporting. We, the Trustees of the School, fully endorse Miss Rowland as being competent in every sense of the word to carry on the busi-

ness of the institution as it should be and recommend her to the public as such.

Very respectfully,

D. H. BURK, Pres. Board Trustees.

J. E. LONG, Secretary.

F. H. VASH, Treasurer.

Gov. S. H. MAYES.

S. B. CALLAHAN.

F. B. FITE.

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We wish just here to extend our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to each of those worthy gentlemen, who so willingly and cheerfully aided us in the financial and official organization of this institution, and who afterwards honored us so highly as to place the entire management of the same in our hands. We wish further to say to them that we have done our utmost to deserve the confidence they have reposed in us personally, and in our ability to do the work; and we feel that much of the success to which we have attained is due largely to the strong support and assistance generally which they gave us in the early days of the institution.

Since the organization of the school, Jan. 3rd, 1898, to June 26th, 1907, we have had in all eleven terms. The first having a duration of six months, the second, three months, the third, only six weeks, and each of the others nine months. Almost every year we have kept a number of pupils through the summer vacation, finding it best for them not to return to their homes, or to the persons from whom we received them. In each case where we have done this, we have had to furnish clothing, board, and all necessary expenses just as we did through the regular school term.

For this reason our summer expenses have been more than they would otherwise have been.

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#### HOW THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN SUPPORTED.

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During the first four terms of school this Institution was supported solely by contributions and donations from the people of the Indian Territory and sympathizing states; which contributions and donations were solicited by the Principal

and her Assistant, Mr. Wm. Lowrey. Many of the schools for the blind in the United States responded heartily and promptly to our call for help, and sent in liberal contributions to aid us in the carrying on of this much needed work; for which generous assistance we now publicly, (as we have before done privately) extend them our most sincere thanks. In November, 1900, an appropriation of three hundred dollars was granted by the National Cherokee Council, to aid in the support and education of blind Cherokee children whom we had in our care. This amount was granted us each year until the fall of 1904, when it was increased to six hundred per year.

In 1901, through the efforts of Hon. J. D. Benedict, Supt. of Schools for the Indian Territory, a contract was made with us by the Secertary of the Interior, for the support and education of as many as four blind Choctaw Indian children, at the rate of twenty-five dollars per month. This amount was allowed the Principal as a remuneration, after deducting all necessary expenses of the children in whose favor the contract was made; including clothing, board, tutition, books, medicines, medical attention, washing, and all other necessary expenses.

In 1903 we opened a department for the care and education of deaf mute children; and in a renewal of the above named contract, the number of Choctaw children was increased to eight, we being allowed to receive four blind and four deaf mutes, at the rate of twenty-five dollars per month per pupil. We have not at all times since this provision was made, had the full number allowed us. And when we did not, of course we could draw pay for only those who were in actual attendance. For about one term we had the full number allowed us by said contract, but, owing to the death of two of these, and to the ill health of three others, we had but three Choctaws the greater part of last term. Of course there are a great many more blind and deaf Choctaw children living in the Choctaw Nation than our contract with the Department has allowed us to receive. But since many of these people live in places miles away from railroad facilities, and in almost inaccessible parts of the country, and as these afflicted children are kept very closely at home, it is an exeremely difficult matter to discover their whereabouts. A great deal of time, money and earnest effort has been expended by the

principal, in an endeavor to find and bring such children into this institution.

There has been no government provision of any kind for the care and education of the blind and deaf white children who reside in the Indian Territory. Therefore, the white pupils whom we have received, and whose parents and friends were not able to pay us for their board, tuition, etc., we have taken free of charge endeavoring to raise money with which to defray their necessary expenses, by soliciting cash contributions, taking subscriptions, and in other legitimate ways. In almost every case, however, the expenses of the children whom we received in this way, exceeded the amount of money which we were able to collect for them; as many of the subscribers to this fund utterly failed to pay anything when called upon to remit.

Owing partly to this failure upon the part of some of our subscribers to pay what they promised, and partly to the constantly increasing expenses of the Institution along various lines, a debt of a few hundred dollars has accumulated which we have as yet been unable to pay. But we have every reason to believe that settlement can, and will be made in full within the next few months. We wish to thank our creditors for the cheerful leniency they have ever manifested toward us, and for the many favors we have received at their hands; and earnestly solicit a continuance of these favors to the school in future, under its new management.

DR. J. M. HOWARD.

The highest praise and commendation is due Dr. J. M. Howard for his faithfulness as our attending physician. He has at all times willingly and cheerfully, donated his very best services to our sick, coming whenever called upon, even in the very coldest and most stormy weather. The valuable and efficient service he has rendered the institution, has ever been held in the highest appreciation by the managers, and by all concerned. And in behalf of the teachers, officers and pupils, and all who have in any way been connected with the institution during the past ten years we extend to this worthy gentleman the hearty thanks and high appreciation that are so justly due him.

## REPORT OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN.

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*To the Patrons and Friends of the International School for the Blind and Deaf Mutes, and the General Public:*

I have the honor to submit my report for the ten years, beginning in 1897 and ending July 31st, 1907, as attending Physician to the above institution. The general health of the pupils has been above the average as compared to those living in surrounding neighborhood and town population. The school is located on a high eminence over-looking Grand River and Arkansas bottoms. On account of its high altitude the school is practically above the malarial zone, hence we have had no protracted cases of malarial fevers. Have had a few chills and bilious attacks in those who come to the school from malarial districts.

We have had no epidemic of contagious diseases, except one of measles in 1902, and one of smallpox in 1905. By prompt isolation and prophylactic treatment these were confined to a very small per cent of the pupils. There were no deaths and no serious results from these epidemics.

There has been but two deaths in the institution since it began, one in year 1903, a female 20 years old, blind, deaf, and almost dumb; citizen, died from heart disease.

The other in the year 1906, female, white, i. e., non-citizen, six years old, died from Hydrocepholic trouble, the latter had been in the school only a short time.

The pupils of the school enjoy a wholesome and sanitary environment, which only an abundance of pure air, scrupulous cleanliness and nourishing, health giving diet can produce.

Although at present they have no regularly equipped gymnasium, their physical training is not neglected.

The blind as well as the deaf mutes are required to go through a daily systematic exercise under the personal directions of one of the faculty. This is done not for the purpose of producing trained athletes, but to insure development of body and muscles commensurate with that of the mind.

Taking the whole number of pupils, the average advancement in mind development is more rapid than in seeing schools, and in certain ones who have extra-bright minds this advancement is remarkable. This is no doubt due to concentration. This of course necessitates a certain amount

of physical training in order that the body keep pace with the mind.

Considering the difficulty of giving the blind physical training, especially in connection with deaf mutes, the success in this line by this institution is remarkable.

This report would be incomplete if I did not express the appreciation of attention given the sick by the Principal, Mrs. Lura A. Lowrey and her assistants. She has spared no pains in supplying every want and careful nursing which is so essential to the proper treatment of the sick.

There has been one birth, on Dec. 29, 1904, little Howard Rowland Lowrey was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lowrey, who is now a sturdy, bright eyed little man two and one-half years old, who enjoys the distinction of being the youngest pupil who can converse not only with the blind by ordinary conversation but also with the deaf mutes by means of his fingers.

BELOW FIND REPORT OF VISITS AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH YEAR.

	VISITS	PRES.
1898	12	7
1899	16	9
1900	20	3
1901	7	0
1902	10	11
1903	25	19
1904	17	7
1905	52	11
1906	4	10
1907	11	3

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. HOWARD,  
Attending Physician.

August 6, 1907.

The following named persons also deserve special mention for valuable services rendered this institution from time to time, during the past ten years. Which services were, in every case, willingly and cheerfully donated; the donors receiving nothing in return but their necessary expenses and travelling expenses, to and from the school. The faithfulness, cheerfulness and efficiency with which each of these individuals performed their every duty while connected with the

institution, justly merits much more than the brief mention we can here make. But owing to lack of time and space we cannot now say more. However, we gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing to them, one and all, our heartiest thanks for their generous assistance, and our warm appreciation of their ready and prompt response to our call for help in a time of need.

PERSONS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE.

Private Secretary and General Assistant for one year,

Miss Cora E. Rowland, now Mrs. Roscoe J. Smith, Paris,  
Arkansas.

Music Teacher—for nine months.

Miss Mamie E. Graham, Green Forest, Arkansas.

Housekeeper and Steward respectively—for one year.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Henry, Tulsa, I. T.

Housekeeper and General Assistant—for six months.

Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Rowland, Wedington, Arkansas.

Literary Teacher—for seven months.

Miss Jessie M. Parks, Rogers, Arkansas.

Literary Teacher, Teacher of Piano Tuning and Boys Industrial Teacher combined—for two years.

Mr. C. E. Harmon, Gans, I. T.

Assistant Literary Teacher and Teacher of Elocution—for nine months.

Miss Ella Fritts, Wesley, Arkansas.

Literary Teacher—for three months.

Miss Clara Crenshaw, Okmulgee, I. T.

Literary Teacher—for three months.

Miss Lulu Renfroe, De Witt, Arkansas.

Literary and Music Teacher combined—for seven months.

Miss Grace De Fore, Douglas, Kansas.

Teacher for the Deaf—two months,

Mrs. Eva Shaw, Wagoner, I. T.

Teacher for the Deaf—six months,

Mrs. Elizabeth Renfroe, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Teacher for the Deaf—three months.

Miss Ida M. Worrall, Oberlin, Kansas.

Principal Music and Literary Teacher combined—nine months

Miss Grace G. Hervey, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Private Secretary and General Assistant—six months,

Miss Minnie Lawrence, Ward Arkansas.

Principal Literary Teacher—for nine months,

Miss Stella Jernigan, Sulphur Rock, Arkansas.  
Music Teacher—for four months,  
Miss Hannah Heath, Agnos, Arkansas.  
Teacher of Elocution—for nine months.  
Miss Belle Reynolds, Lamar, Arkansas.  
Private Secretary and General Assistant—for four years.  
Miss Winnie Hudson, now Mrs. W. A. Adams, Dalark,  
Arkansas.

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None of our teachers have received more than one hundred and fifty dollars per term. But in every case we have furnished them, in addition to this small salary, board, lodging, washing and medicines.

The various branches of study we have taught thus far are as follows:

Reading, Writing, Spelling, Mental Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, United States History, English History, Outlines of the World's History, Practical Arithmetic, Algebra, Physical Geography, Geology, Physiology, Physics, Astronomy, Elocution, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Physical Culture, and Industrial Work for Boys; such as Piano Tuning, Broom Making, Basket Making and Chair Seating. While our girls have been taught along the various lines of Housekeeping, including Cooking and Laundry Work, Sewing, both by hand and on the Machine, and various kinds of Fancy work.

We have enrolled in all, fifty pupils during the entire ten years; thirty-six of whom are blind, and fourteen deaf. We have received in all, twenty-seven white children, eleven Choctaw Indians and twelve Cherokees.

LIST OF PUPILS ENROLLED, AND THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

**BLIND PUPILS.**

WHITES:

Jas. Anderson, Eli, I. T.	Lizzie Cowan, Fry, I. T.
Thos. Parker, San Bois, I. T.	Minnie McMurry, Muskogee, I. T.
Geo. Carter, Cameron, I. T.	Mollie Robertson, Muskogee, I. T.
Wm. Petty, Thomas, Okla.	Mabel Stookey, Nowata, I. T.
Oscar Young, Eli, I. T.	Stella Snooks, Oologah, I. T.
Dee Van Beek, McAlester, I. T.	Frances Caldwell, Sallisaw, I. T.
Edward Broadbent, Butler, Okla.	Della Bowlin, South McAlester, I. T.
Fred Henry, Tulsa, I. T.	Mary Wilkerson, Collinsville, I. T.
Walter Haas, Ft. Gibson, I. T.	Sarah Wilkerson, Collinsville, I. T.
Joe Robbins, Kelleyville, I. T.	Hazel Foster, Pryor Creek, I. T.
Tennie Brooks, Webbers Falls, I. T.	W. L. McNatt, Ralston, Okla.

**BLIND CHOCTAW PUPILS.**

Jensey Willis, Cairo, I. T.	Alice James, Hartshorne, I. T.
Susan Jossee, Owl, I. T.	Solomon McGee, Atoka, I. T.
Isabell Jossee, Owl, I. T.	Gibson Dobinson, Le Flore, I. T.
Myrtle Cook, Durant, I. T.	

**CHEROKEES:**

Katie Rogers, Ft. Gibson, I. T.	Willie Childers, Gans, I. T.
Louise Berry, Ft. Gibson, I. T.	Lem Childers, Gans, I. T.
Stella Allen, Collinsville, I. T.	Victor Wing, Nowata, I. T.
Charley Bryan, Locust Grove, I. T.	

**DEAF WHITE PUPILS.**

Frank Thomas, Morse, I. T.	Jesse Grant, Wagoner, I. T.
Deckard Preston, Wagoner, I. T.	Tommy Damron, Warner, I. T.
James Murphey, Flint, I. T.	

**CHOCTAW DEAF CHILDREN.**

Claud Combs, Hugo, I. T.	Sam Tekubbee, Glover, I. T.
Wallace McCann, Sawyer, I. T.	Elmira Risner, Bennington, I. T.

**CHEROKEE DEAF CHILDREN.**

Martha Lyman, Vinita, I. T.	Jesse Stanley, Flint, I. T.
Callie Lyman, Vinita, I. T.	Willie Humphrey, Maple, I. T.
Nora Gilstrap, Hillside, I. T.	

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT, JULY 30, 1907.**

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**CASH RECEIVED UP-TO-DATE.**

From the Department of the Interior.

For Choctaw Children .....	\$8511.93
For Cherokee Children .....	3000.00
From Custer Co., Oklahoma for the Board and Tuition of one blind boy .....	150.00
Paid by Parents of Pupils .....	200.00
Collected on Subscriptions and proceeds of Entertainments combined .....	1913.75
Proceeds from box suppers given in behalf of the school .....	535.52

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Total Amount received ..... \$14,311.20

**EXPENSES OF THE INSTITUTION UP TO DATE.**

For Groceries, Household Supplies, Fuel, Medicines and Clothing for Pupils .....	\$10,480.72
For Repairs and Improvements on Buildings and Grounds .....	975.42
Teachers' Salaries .....	600.00
Cooking .....	680.50
Washing and General Laundry Work .....	595.75

Necessary Expenses of Teachers and Officers who have worked without Salary .....	893.75
Incidental Expenses including wages of extra help needed, Telephone Bills, Freight Bills, etc.....	722.30
House rent .....	100.00
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Total Expenditures .....	\$15,048.44
Total Cash Receipts .....	\$14,311.20
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· Total Indebtedness not including house rent \$ 737.24

This indebtedness is occasioned mainly by the fact that we have relied upon the promises of our subscribers, many of whom were not to be found, and many others claiming financial inability when time came for collection. Amount not collected, \$794.95.

In addition to the money received and expended in the various ways we have accounted for, several hundred dollars of our own personal money has been expended for the needs of the school, of which we have not kept a strictly itemized account. We have also at various times, brought much of our individual property to the institution to be used for the benefit of those connected therewith. Although we are laying down this work much poorer in this world's goods than we were when we took it up, we do not regret, even for one moment, any of the time, money or labor we have expended in its behalf. Our only regret is, that we could not have done more.

We sincerely trust that the foregoing report will give to the people at large, and especially to those who have contributed to the support of this institution, a clear understanding of the extent and nature of the work to which they have contributed, and that they will not regret the money they have thus expended. While our financial support from the people of the Indian Territory has not been all we could wish, yet when we consider the extremely unsettled condition of the country, and the transient character of the white population, we feel that we have received a very liberal support, and have no complaint to offer.

On the contrary, we most warmly and highly appreciate everything that has been done by the people of the Indian Territory and elsewhere, to aid us in making this school a success; and we hereby extend to them, one and all, our most

heartfelt thanks for the same. The school is now a permanent institution. Four acres of land, adjoining the town of Ft. Gibson, has been granted by the Cherokee Nation, and set apart by the Dawes Commission, for the permanent use of our school, and we hope to erect suitable buildings thereon, as soon as an appropriation can be obtained for that purpose. It is a question of only a few months, a year or two at most, till this little school, which has existed under such trying difficulties will become the future State Institution, and under the generous government of our grand New State of Oklahoma, will be second to none in the United States. This is the basis upon which our school now stands, and we feel that our duty toward it has been fulfilled. Feeling thus, and knowing that our duty now is to ourselves and to our family, we willingly and cheerfully place the entire management of the institution in the hands of Mr. C. E. Harmon, and sever our connection therewith. While we, in many respects, regret to leave the work which we have learned to love so dearly, we do so, knowing that he whom we have chosen as our successor, is most worthy of the charge we entrust to his keeping, and that he is entirely competent to carry it on most successfully. We heartily endorse and commend him to the public, and earnestly solicit, for him and the school, of which he now assumes entire charge, the generous support of all.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. LURA A. LOWREY, Principal,

MR. WM. LOWREY, Assistant Business Manager, of International School for the Blind and Deaf, Fort Gibson, Ind. Ter.

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#### A RECOMMENDATION.

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Fort Gibson, I. T., July 30, 1907

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned citizens and residents of Fort Gibson, I. T., take pleasure in stating that Mrs. Lura A. Lowrey and Mr. Wm. Lowrey have been in charge of the International School for the Blind and Deaf of this city for the past ten years and during this time the school has made much progress and has been of inestimable benefit to the pupils of the school. Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey have proven themselves to be instruc-

tors of more than ordinary attainments and have been very successful in their undertakings to furnish an education to the pupils who attended the school. They are held in the highest esteem by everyone who knows them. They resign from the work of the school only after ten years of incessant labor and are to be commended for their efficient work. We take pleasure in recommending them as persons of strict reliability and honesty.

Name.	Occupation.
F. H. Nash	Merchant.
Joe Mayer	Merchant.
P. Hicks	Merchant.
J. D. Lake	City Recorder.
R. M. Edwards	Clerk.
J. C. Howell	Assistant Cashier First Nat'l Bank.
J. L. Tittle	Barber.
T. H. Dunning	Merchant.
R. E. Rye	Merchant.
T. F. Heydon	Farmer.
Connell Rogers	Vice-President Farmers Nat'l Bank.
W. M. Spain	Pastor M. E. Church South.
G. W. Thompson	Merchant.
B. M. Langley	Merchant.
E. H. Grisham	Salesman.
D. M. Walker *	Salesman.
E. C. Gilliland	Editor Fort Gibson Democrat.
G. W. Perry	City Marshal.
V. L. Hurt	Hardware Merchant.
E. W. Sanders	Salesman.
P. L. Pyle	Cashier First Nat'l Bank.
Ran Lee	City Mayor.
J. S. Holden	Editor of Fort Gibson Post.

Letter of Commendation—From Rev. J. S. Murrow, President of Murrow Indian Orphans Home, Atoka, Indian Territory.

Atoka, Ind. Ter., July 30, 1907

Mrs. Lura A. Lowrey,

Dear Daughter:—

I was a warm friend to your undertaking before you ever opened the International School for Blind and Deaf, at Fort Gibson, ten years ago. I have watched your management as President of that institution all these years. Your remarkable success in establishing that institution and conducting it with signal ability has won from the benevolently disposed people of the whole Territory, the merited plaudit, "Well done good and faithful servant." You are a true Philanthropist and deserve the honor and praise of this new state in an eminent degree. In your retirement from the institution you will certainly

carry with you the love and gratitude of all your pupils and confidence of hosts of friends. May God continue to be with you in your retirement and may the mantle of Elijah fall on Elisha I pray.

Sincerely,  
J S. MURROW.

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*Brief Sketch of the life of Mrs. L. A. Lowrey.*

After years of close association with Mrs. Lowrey, in the relation of seignior to intermediate students, where her wise words of counsel and encouragement are still cherished; subsequently as instructor and seignior in our dear old Alma Mater, and lastly as her assistant in the International School for the Blind and Deaf at Ft. Gibson, I. T., a detailed knowledge is mine, of her life, its lofty purposes, and grand achievements; and I cannot refrain from attempting to portray a few of the many interesting facts connected therewith.

Her school days were characterized by untiring industry, coupled with marked ability, which easily secured for her two handsome medals, and enabled her to bear away the highest honors of her class, and eminently fitted her for the great work she was destined to perform. After her graduation from the Arkansas School for the Blind, Miss Rowland attended one of Arkansas's best colleges, keeping abreast with the foremost, if not ahead of all the sighted members of her class. For a time she was successfully employed in teaching music, but was soon selected to fill an important literary position in the faculty of the Arkansas School for the Blind. It was while instructing a music class at Webbers Falls just prior to accepting this position that the plan of organizing a school for the blind and deaf began to develop.

In her work in the Arkansas school for the blind, the promises which Miss Rowland gave as a student, were more than fulfilled. Her charm of manner, unwavering integrity, and exalted Christian character won for her the entire confidence and esteem alike of teachers and pupils. While her tact and skill as an instructress, and faculty for controlling by inspiration rather than by compulsion, were potent factors in bringing out the very best that was in the natures of those who were so fortunate as to be in her classes.

After several years of most efficient labor; in June 1897, she voluntarily gave up this lucrative position to devote her

life without any hope of financial remuneration to her long cherished plan of establishing a school in the Indian Territory.

With a zest and determination which know no such word as failure, Miss Rowland made a tour of the two territories, in concise lectures setting forth the imperative need of education for the blind, and soliciting contributions for the establishment of such a school. In most instances her efforts met with a liberal response, and she was everywhere accorded that entire confidence and respect which her noble self sacrifice so richly deserved. Through an interpreter she addressed the Honorable Choctaw, Creek and Cherokee Councils and was received with high favor by these generous hearted bodies, who set a commendable example to their pale-faced brethren, by making provisions for a limited number of Indian children to attend such a school, which example congress has as yet failed to follow; though a bill asking for such appropriation for white children has long been pending in that assemblage.

By dint of some negotiation the old barracks building at Ft. Gibson was secured and after remodeling, made a very good temporary school building. With untiring energy Miss Rowland collected the various articles of furniture which had been donated and by skillful management soon made the bare old building as comfortable and homelike as was possible under the circumstances, so that in January, 1898, school was opened with an enrollment of six pupils.

Next came the problem of securing competent assistants to carry on this work of education, but this difficulty was soon solved, by graduates from several school for the blind who at different times freely gave their services, to further this great enterprise. Bravely did this noble woman struggle against financial embarrassments, which would have chilled a less ardent spirit, but her courage seemed to rise upon each wave of adversity and triumphantly to surmount every obstacle.

After the school for the blind had been thoroughly organized a department for the deaf was added, and students from various schools for the deaf with equal generosity volunteered their aid as teachers. It must be remembered that no provision had been made for the payment of salaries of Superintendent, or faculty; and the Indian appropriation was entirely inadequate to meet the actual running expenses of the school. This deficiency Mrs. Lowrey pluckily met by soliciting donations, conducting entertainments given by the pupils

in the various towns of the territory. Nowhere has her marked ability been more clearly shown than in so successfully coping with these financial difficulties. Often when help in the housekeeping department could not be secured, teachers and pupils alike took up the work and carried it on in addition to their regular school duties.

The progress made by these Indian children is equal to that of the children in any public school; their eagerness and aptitude more than compensates for all labor expended.

On July 16, 1902, Miss Rowland was happily married to Mr. William P. Lowrey, a prominent member of one of the first Cherokee families and a brother to the late Judge Henry Lowrey. For years prior to their marriage Mr. Lowrey without compensation filled the office of assistant superintendent and financial agent, and has done much to bring the school to its present high standing.

Thus through the thick clouds of doubt, difficulty, and uncertainty has Mrs. Lowrey bravely pushed the school into the bright sunlight of complete and lasting prosperity.

Her life's ambition is realized, her hearts desire has attained abundant fruition. And now with deep regret, because duty calls her elsewhere, to care for her home and family, because her strength will no longer bear the heavy demand made upon it by this work, Mrs. Lowrey commits her beloved school to the guardianship of Mr. C. E. Harmon, who has long been her faithful co-worker; than whom no abler superintendent could have been selected.

Mr. Harmon is also a graduate of the Arkansas school for the blind where his good record in school, and exemplary life, bespeak for him a career worthy of his illustrious predecessor.

"Written by Miss Grace Garland Hervey" intimate friend and former assistant of Mrs. Lowery, and now member of the faculty in the Arkansas School for the Blind.

Endorsed by :

GOV. JOHN S. LITTLE,  
Ex-Gov. DAN W. JONES,  
HON. RANSOME GULLEY,  
HON. T. N. ROBERTSON,  
MRS. L. V. SHANON,  
MISS N. A. MOORE.



